

2013 Needs Assessment for Lawrence County

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Accomplishments

Children's Policy Council sponsored "Have a Fit" program on health and fitness for all County 5th graders, and launched its own website.

Board of Education implemented Early Infant program, open one new Pre-K program and received full funding for two existing Pre-K programs, received College & Career Readiness Grant, began an Agriculture Initiative, made plans to expand AP into all high schools.

Department of Public Health provided immunization shots to the County's children, and provided tobacco prevention presentations.

Department of Human Resources helped collect over \$2.5 million in child support.

Judy Jester Learning Center provided the SNAP-Ed Program to improve student eating habits.

ABC officers sponsored an initiative against underage drinking during prom season.

Cooperative Extension System served over 3000 youths with programs in Nutrition and Health, Sun Safety, Environmental Safety and Health, Radon Awareness, and Farm to Table Program.

Big Brothers/Big Sisters made plans to expand further into Lawrence County and restart Mentoring in the school system.

Boys and Girls Club initiated plans to open club in Moulton.

Industrial Development Board participated in Agricultural Initiative Career Day and sponsored Youth Leadership Lawrence.

Department of Rehabilitation Services participated in Mentoring Day at Calhoun Community College.

Mental Health Center provided intensive treatment program for children three to five years of age; in-school counseling provided for students K-12; summer day treatment program for children age 6 to 14.

Juvenile Probation Office initiated Parents and Adolescent Together (PAT) empowerment program, and also the Juvenile Prevention Program against substance abuse.

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First Priority

Need related to children of this county

Reduce obesity among the County's children/youth through emphasizing nutrition and physical fitness.

Existing resources available to help meet this need include:	Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include:
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Continuation of "Have a Fit" program initiated by the Children's Policy Council.2. Physical Education classes in the County's school system.3. Line dancing provided by 4-H Club.4. Healthy Eating program sponsored for 5th-6th graders by 4-H Club.5. Healthy Habits, SMART Moves, and Triple Play by Boys'/Girls' Club.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Expansion of Boys'/Girls' Club throughout County.2. Increased funding for "Have a Fit."

Action steps that will result in progress toward meeting the identified need:

1. Continue to develop funding sources for "Have a Fit."
2. Meet with Boys'/Girls' Club leadership.

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Second Priority

Need related to children of this county

Focus on the dangers of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco.

Existing resources available to help meet this need include:	Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include:
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Substance abuse components in "Have a Fit."2. School Resource Officers.3. Drug Endangered Children programs at Lawrence County Sheriff's Department.4. Drug programs through local Mental Health Center.5. Teen Quest at Quest Recovery Center.6. Drug prevention activities for 5th-6th graders through 4-H Club.7. Health Department's Tobacco Prevention Program.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Additional School Resource Officers.2. Expansion of Boys'/Girls' Club in Lawrence County.3. Eliminate smoking in public buildings.

Action steps that will result in progress toward meeting the identified need:

1. Continue lobbying city councils and county commission on smoking ordinances.
2. Work with school system on increasing school resource officers.
3. Work with Boys'/Girls' Club on their expansion efforts.

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Third Priority

Need related to children of this county

The County needs more after school and summer programs for its children/youth.

Existing resources available to help meet this need include:	Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include:
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Big Brothers and Big Sisters2. Boys'/Girls' Club3. Lawrence County School System	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Additional funding for such programs.2. Volunteers to staff such efforts

Action steps that will result in progress toward meeting the identified need:

1. Pursue grant opportunities for after school/summer programs.
2. Meet with Boys'/Girls' Club leadership.
3. Meet with Big Brothers and Big Sisters leadership.
4. Develop task force to develop and implement a plan.